

Inventors: Latterich et al.  
Serial No.: 09/458,779  
Filed: December 10, 1999  
Page 2

Please amend claims 3, 9, 36, 47 and 48, to read as follows:

E' 3. An polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding a vesicular fusion factor 2 protein (Vff2p), comprising SEQ ID NO:2, or conservative variations thereof, and further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous target protein.

E2 9. The polynucleotide of claim 3, further comprising a second promoter operably linked to the sequence encoding the target protein operably linked to a second promoter.

E3 36. An isolated vesicular fusion factor 2 protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2, or conservative variations thereof, and further comprising a heterologous target protein.

EH 47. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding a vesicular fusion factor 2 protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2, and further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous target protein, wherein the vesicular fusion factor 2 protein increases *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cell growth or protein expression.

48. An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 encoding a vesicular fusion factor 2 protein that increases *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cell growth or protein expression, and further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous target protein.

Please add the following new claims: